



Art by Rosalind Thomas (Grade 10-12)

Driving along the scenic roads in New York State, we see beautiful hills, valleys and waterbodies that inspire admiration of our natural environment.

**But, we also see misplaced human-generated solid waste—
LITTER!**

Litter is unsightly, unsanitary, unappealing, can be hazardous and degrades the quality of our lives by degrading our environment.

Write or call us:

NYSDEC
Bureau of Solid Waste, Reduction and Recycling
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-7253,
or e-mail us at:
recycling@dec.ny.gov
and check our webpage at:
www.dec.ny.gov/about/638.html

We would like to hear from you; send us your ideas and suggestions.

Other groups deal with litter cleanups; please check the following:

- NYS Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway Program
www.dot.state.ny.us/progs/adopt/adopt.html
- Keep America Beautiful's comprehensive anti-litter campaign www.kab.org/

Earth Day Litter Cleanup a model for success

The Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency had more than 5,800 dedicated volunteers from businesses, youth groups, schools and civic organizations participate in their annual Earth Day Litter Cleanup. They collected approximately 100,000 pounds of litter from local neighborhoods, schools, roadways and parks.

Let's
PICK IT UP
NEW YORK



Art by Samantha DeTurris (Grade K-3)



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**



Art by Katarina Liberatori (grade 7-9)

New York State is promoting an anti-litter campaign...

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LITTER is a **PROBLEM** because it can:

- Reduce the aesthetic appeal of public places, including streets, parks and waterways
- Kill aquatic life through its impacts on water quality
- Block drainage systems and cause flooding
- Endanger people, particularly when it includes items such as broken glass, needles and syringes
- Be a fire hazard
- Cost communities huge sums of money for cleanups
- Decrease oxygen levels when it decays in water

LITTER is **GENERATED** in many ways, including:

- Improper garbage collection – blowing garbage and spillage during collection
- Uncovered or inadequately covered trucks and other vehicles transporting materials
- Illegal disposal of solid waste
- Pedestrians
- Motorists

Once solid waste becomes **LITTER**, it can take a **LONG TIME** to decompose.

People litter for one of three reasons:

- They feel no sense of ownership for the property.
- They believe someone else will clean up after them.
- Litter has already accumulated in the same area.



Art by Brayden Stramezzi (Grade 4-6)